

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of obtaining a posted price includes conducting a search over the ~~network includes~~ Internet including the use of an existing search engine.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method of purchasing goods and services over the Internet, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a posted price associated with the goods and services from a first set of multiple vendors over the Internet;

determining a lowest posted price of the posted prices obtained in the previous step;

submitting a starting bid over the Internet which is lower than the lowest posted price;

collecting one or more reverse bids from a second set of multiple vendors over the Internet, wherein each reverse bid represents a price which is lower than the starting bid;

selecting a final bid from among the reverse bids; and

purchasing the goods or services using the final bid.